



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

SBA Number : SS08-03-0429  
Release Date: Immediate

Contact: Christopher Lorenzana  
714-560-7453  
christopher.Lorenzana@sba.gov

## **U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION NAMES ROBERT W. YAPP REGION IX VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR**



**SANTA ANA, CA** – Robert W. Yaap, Co-founder and CEO of Great Pacific Securities in Laguna Hills, CA, and resident of Mission Viejo, has been named **Region IX Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year** by the Santa Ana District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration. Region IX includes California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii and Guam. District Director, J. Adalberto Quijada announced his selection stating, “Robert has given unselfishly to his country and his dedication to numerous Service Disabled Veteran organizations has a long lasting impact for veteran affairs.” Don Gonnevill, President and CEO of Gonnevill, Inc., himself a past recipient of this award, nominated Robert W. Yaap.

Yaap is a veteran, having served ten years in the U.S. Army. He is also a successful business owner, along with co-founder Dave Swoish. After the first year in business, their business grew to 10 employees, then 25. Today, after 17 years, Great Pacific Securities is highly recognized in the industry for its professionalism and excellent work.

Since the beginning of the California disabled veteran business movement in 1990, Yaap has been at the forefront of all significant activities, promoting opportunities available to his fellow veterans. An overview of his activities demonstrates his lifelong commitment to create opportunities for service disabled veterans. He was co-founder of the Orange County Chapter of the California DVBE Alliance, serving on the Board of Directors for several years. His leadership through the years has assisted many new DVBE companies to grow and

prosper. He has also served for many years as a member of the California Department of Veteran Affairs DVBE Advisory Council and is Chairman of the council's Legislative Committee.

In the early '90's, Yaap assisted in advocating in Washington, DC for the passing of Federal Service Disabled Veteran Business legislation... This involved quarterly meetings in Washington, DC to meet with members of Congress, veteran committees and federal agencies to develop legislation that would provide opportunities for the nation's veterans and service disabled veterans in obtaining contracts with the federal government and their prime contractors. In 1999, after years of work by Yaap and many other service-disabled vets, Congress passed PL 106-50 that requires federal agencies to procure at least 3% of all procurement through Service Disabled Veterans Enterprises. The passing of this legislation has created new opportunities for veterans and service disabled veterans all across the Nation.

Yaap is also founder and director of the recently established National Disabled Veteran Business Council, which represents disabled veteran businesses throughout the country. He personally funded the initiative to rectify a law that was not advantageous for disabled veteran businesses organized as an LLC. In these and many other venues, his peers seek out Bob for his calm counsel and thoughtful insight. In all of his undertakings, he truly represents the DVBE community in a professional manner and he is an outstanding advocate for all veteran business owners.

Robert Yaap and other small business owners & champions will be honored at the **45<sup>th</sup> Annual Small Business Week Awards** on September 25, 2008 at the Hilton Anaheim. For more information, please contact Christopher Lorenzana at 714.560.7453 or [christopher.lorenzana@sba.gov](mailto:christopher.lorenzana@sba.gov) .